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Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Czeching Out My Ancestors

or

Looking for the Prague Branch of the Nabb Research Center

by Joana Stuchlik Donovan

The Nabb Research Center provides a wonderful opportunity to do extensive genealogical research on your family, especially if you can trace your family to the Delmarva Peninsula in the mid-1600s. The varied and valuable resources, the friendly and helpful staff all add up to a pleasant time searching for your roots. I have had this experience while tracing my husband's family (Donovan) and some of my maternal lines (Clendaniel, Dutton, Skidmore and Parramore/Palmer). However, I have always had a desire to learn more about my paternal ancestors and that provided a problem that could not be solved at the Nabb Research Center.

My paternal grandfather and grandmother were immigrants from Europe. They came to America in 1902 and 1905, respectively, from Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. On previous trips to the Genealogy Library of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, UT, I was able to find each of them listed on different ship manifests. I also knew their birth, marriage and death dates, but little else. Having had so much success with my other family research, I was heartbroken that I would never know more about these people who meant so much to me.

(from left) Karel Vachuska, 80, of Slatino, Bohemia, Czech Republic, second cousin of Mrs. Donovan's late father, Joana Donovan and her daughter, Dr. Lisa A. Donovan.

You can imagine my surprise and delight when my husband asked our daughter if she would accompany me on a genealogy trip to the Czech Republic. What a wonderful gift: the opportunity to search for my Bohemian roots and a vacation in the beautiful city of Prague with my daughter.

Now came the classic questions–who, what, when, where, why and how? Well, the "why" was easy, and the "when" was determined when we decided on the two weeks from August 24 through September 7. As for the "who," at least I knew the names with which to begin. But, "how" does one go about genealogical research in the Czech Republic; "what" records are available; are they available in English; "where" are they located; and could we do the research ourselves?

To find the answers to my questions, I turned to my computer and the Internet. What I learned was both good and bad. The good news was that genealogical interest in the Czech Republic is growing and many original records are still available. The bad news was that 1) the records, usually church parish registers, are located in several state archives throughout the Republic, 2) one has to know the exact place of birth in order to find the parish and then the state archives, 3) only the old records can be studied, as the records of the 19th century are not yet available for public scrutiny, 4) records are written in Latin, German or in Czech using the old German alphabet, 5) one has to make an appointment to visit the reading room at each location and has to wait for his/her turn, 6) study rooms are small and overcrowded, 7) information has to be hand copied from the original registers, 8) facilities are not computerized, and 9) staffs are not "visitor friendly." WHAT? You mean they didn't have a local branch of the Nabb Research Center in Prague? How awful!

Okay, so doing my own research was not an option. What next? Again, I turned to the Internet and connected with a man in Nebraska who had just returned from a genealogy trip to Bohemia. On March 31, he put me in contact with the Prague researcher who had traced his family back several generations. Two weeks later, I received written confirmation from the researcher that she would

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research the two lines of my ancestors, and she would try to get as much information as possible before our trip.

And get results she did. By the middle of August, I had in my hands the pedigrees of both lines of my Bohemian ancestors along with pertinent maps, glossaries of Czech terms, geographic notes, commentary on her findings and documentation of references. My grandfather's line went back to 1760 and that of my grandmother back to 1679. I studied the information over and over, elated that at last I knew something about my Bohemian roots. Little did I realize that the best was yet to come!

Our trip was wonderful, and we enjoyed every minute of our two-week stay. The highlight, however, was our journey into the beautiful Bohemian countryside to the small villages of our ancestors. We went with the researcher and her college professor husband in their little Czech car. She told us that since the house numbers in each village had been recorded in the church registers, and the houses still retained the same numbers, there was a good possibility we could locate the actual homes in which our ancestors had been born, had lived and died. We MIGHT even find a distant relative still living in the family home.

The first day we did find a few distant relatives. One had retained the village register, which showed that our ancestors had moved to that area in 1652. The number of hectares they had farmed was recorded as well as the number and kind of their livestock. Everyone was friendly and eager to tell us all they knew about the family.

The second day was the dream of every genealogist. First, we located a distant relative and she invited us to take photos of the interior of her home. She lived in the same house in which my fourth great grandfather had been born. Living next door to her was another relative who bore the same name as a cousin with whom I had grown up in Delaware. This "Czech cousin" introduced us to his family and shared information about farming in Bohemia. We then found the home where my grandmother had been born and lived before coming to America. It was now a summer weekend cottage and was unoccupied that day. But the biggest surprise of all came when we visited the last house on our list. There we found a second cousin of my late father and his family still living in the home where my great grandmother had been born. He looked so much like my father that I cried. They invited us in for hot tea and strudel and we "talked" with the researcher interpreting for us. I will never forget that moment. I had "come home." Here, surrounding me, were my roots!

So, while I never did find the Prague branch of the Nabb Research Center, I did find a heritage rich in history and culture, and Czech relatives that I never knew existed.

Sussex County Delaware native and Nabb Research Center member, Joana Stuchlik Donovan, is a retired elementary school principal. She is currently researching the Alexander Draper family. She can be contacted at vinced@dmv.com.

April Is Maryland Archaeology Month

In recognition of Archaeology Month in Maryland, the Nabb Research Center is hosting two lectures to which the public is invited. They will offer interesting insights about the early settlers of colonial Maryland.

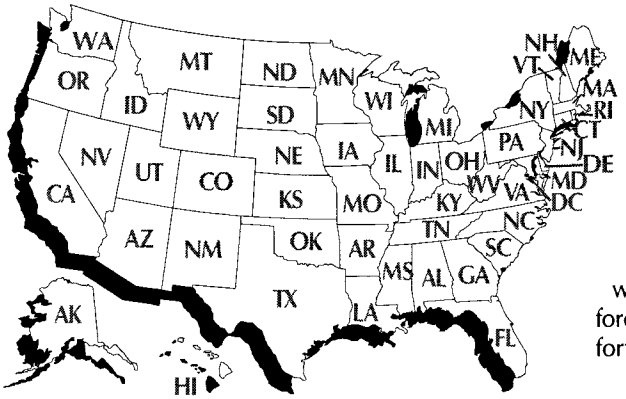
Ed Otter, Ph.D. candidate in archaeology at Catholic University and a lecturer at Salisbury State University, will discuss his ongoing research to locate archaeological sites in Somerset County, MD, from the last half of the 17th century. Early results of a land tenure study and cursory field examination will be presented on Thursday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, April 28, at 1 p.m. Dr. Timothy Riordan, chief archaeologist of historic St. Mary's City, will present a slide-illustrated talk, "Life and Death in 17th Century Maryland: A View from the Chapel Field Cemetery at Historic St. Mary's City, MD." Excavations at the 17th century cemetery at St. Mary's City revealed a wealth of information about the lives of early Maryland settlers and speak to the development of our modern beliefs and mortuary rituals.

Both of these events take place at the Nabb Research Center and are free to the public. For directions contact us at 410-543-6312. For more information about archaeology programs and workshops in the state of Maryland, visit Maryland Historical Trust's Web site at www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net. Our neighbor, Virginia, celebrates Archaeology Month in October, while Delaware has events scheduled for May.

Amazing Attendance

Looking at tiny Maryland, the Eastern Shore is barely visible on this map. Therefore, when the annual attendance figures were compiled, we were surprised to realize how many visitors have come from all over the nation to research their family histories at the Nabb Research Center. This verified a fact we have always known—Maryland's Eastern Shore was the birthplace of many American families.



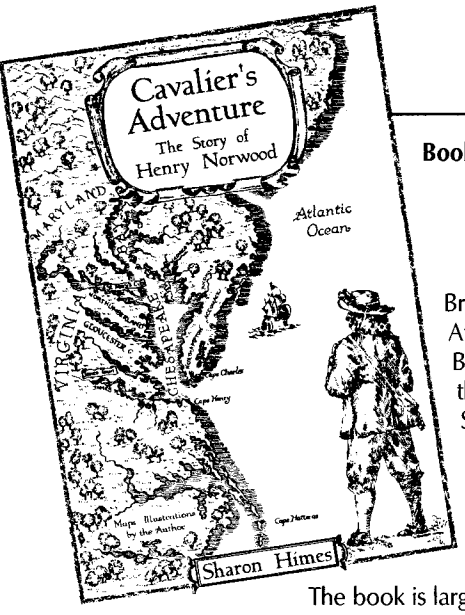
In reviewing our attendance figures, we realized how far our ancestors have traveled and yet what a small world this is. There are many days when visitors come to the Nabb Research Center to investigate their family's roots and we can point to another visitor or co-worker and say "meet your cousin."

AL	2	ID	1	NJ	14	TX	20
AR	1	IL	8	NV	6	UT	1
AZ	3	IN	1	NY	12	VA	77
CA	19	KY	1	OH	28	WA	6
CT	5	M	12	OK	5	WI	8
DC	1	MN	2	OR	1	WV	1
DE	122	MT	6	PA	33		
FL	15	NC	13	SC	3		
GA	1	NH	5	TN	7	Total	430

Approximate number of visits by researchers from other states in 2000.

With today's modern travel conveniences and changing jobs, it is impossible to draw any solid conclusions about migration patterns from the visitor information we have . . . but it sure is tempting! Notice that we do not have many visitors from the Northern States; most New Englanders had different ancestors. The majority of our visitors are from the West, which is where our adventurous forebears went to seek land and their fortunes.

Looking at the number of researchers from other states, not including those from Maryland's Western Shore, brought the realization that we are indeed fulfilling our mission of being a central repository of historical and family information for Delmarva. We have you, our members, to thank for your support and for getting the word out to others. We are always striving to improve our facility and the resources available to our researchers. With your help, we will continue to reach our goals.



Book Review

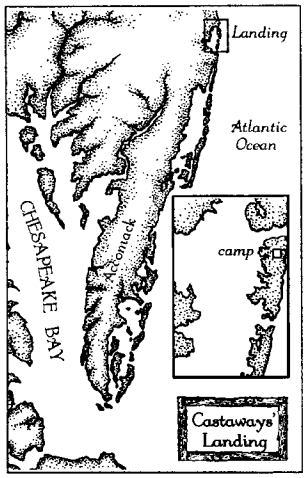
Cavalier's Adventure: The Story of Henry Norwood

Browsing through Henrietta's Attic book store in Salisbury, Becky Miller happened across the above titled book by Sharon Himes. It is the story of Henry Norwood from 17th century Britain and his travels to the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

The book is largely based on the journal kept by Norwood during his journey, but Himes has included background material about his life and times that bring the history to life. It is easily read and offers the modern reader a perspective on the lives and times of our early settlers and their reasons for emigrating. This background information also helps illustrate the differences between the settlers in Virginia and New England.

Norwood's journal tells the story of his harrowing shipboard journey to America and his accidental landing on Fenwick Island, DE, in the winter of 1650. Upon his arrival, he and some fellow travelers were befriended by Native-Americans of the area. These friendly inhabitants helped him along his way through Accomack and Northampton to his destination of Middle Plantation (Williamsburg, VA).

If you are interested in the history of the region and its early settlement, you will find this book worth reading. You will enjoy the maps and drawings throughout the book that were done by the author–the illustration shown here is an example. We also were delighted to see an acknowledgment in the book to the resources offered at the Nabb Research Center that were utilized during the author's research. Thank you Sharon Himes for writing this book and demonstrating another way in which we are fulfilling our educational mission.



People

African-American History Lecture

The Edward H. Nabb Research Center For Delmarva History and Culture participated in African-American History Month with a presentation titled "Blacks On The Eastern Shore." Dr. Clara Small, professor of history, spoke to a diverse crowd of 42 faculty, staff, students and townspeople.

Pointing out her longevity at Salisbury State University she paid tribute to Dr. Norman Crawford, fifth president of the Salisbury State and the administrator who hired her in 1977, and to Dr. A. K. Talbot, retired professor of sociology, whom she said was the "wind beneath her wings."

In her enlightening and educational presentation she touched on such historical figures as John Punch, James Blaine, Anthony Johnson, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. In addition, she discussed the research that she and Rev. David Briddell have undertaken on the subject of free and slave blacks in the Civil War. To date, they have recorded 600 slaves who served in the Union Army.

Additional information was shared through a question and answer period.

Carey Discovers Outlaw Waterman

Nabb Research Center member and certified genealogist, Mary Frances Carey, recently appeared in the *Salisbury Daily Times*. Mrs. Carey was featured in the newspaper because of her discovery that her great-grandfather, Captain Robert W. Hurley, was an outlaw waterman who illegally dredged oysters in the late 1800s when oysters could only be legally taken using tongs. Anyone interested in reading the article can find it in the vertical files at the Nabb Research Center.

Volunteers

Pictured at the right is Jane West as she donated her recently transcribed index of the W. Ballard Miles Collection to the Nabb Research Center. Miles' personal index accompanied the field books, survey records and plats done of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. West's transcription of Miles' index greatly enhances the Ballard Miles Collection by making it electronically searchable. The Nabb Research Center greatly appreciate all of West's efforts. We would also like to thank our other volunteers, Catherine Alvaro, Pauline Batchelder, Fay Brooks, Dr. Ellaline Roy-Macaulay, Jeff Pilchard, Pat Taylor, Barbara Trader, Lucy and Lloyd Whitehead and Barbara Woolston who graciously donated their time to the Nabb Research Center this quarter. Board member and faithful volunteer, Jeff Pilchard has relocated to California. We will miss him, but we wish him well in his future endeavors. We appreciate the wonderful newsletter articles that were submitted by Dan Moore, Joana Donovan and John Dennis. Jim Trader must be spending too much time at the Nabb Research Center. We have begun to rely on him for his expertise on a variety subjects. Thanks Jim!

At left, new SSU president, Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach, recently visited the Nabb Research Center. Dudley-Eshbach (center) is pictured here with Dr. Ray Thompson and Becky Miller.

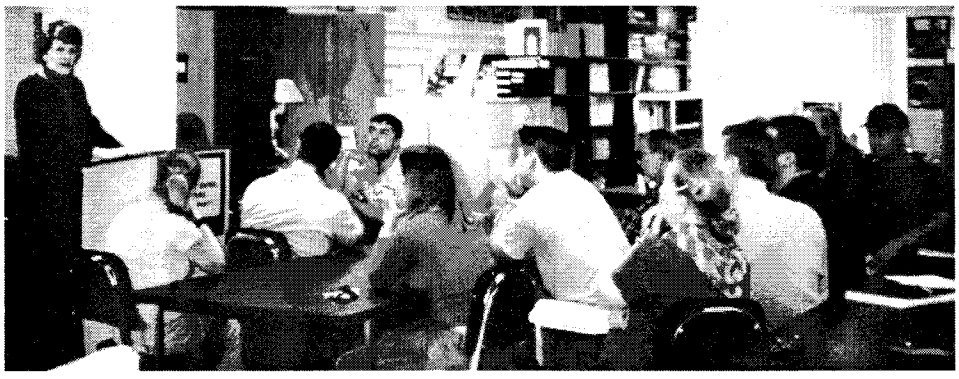
Recent Visitor

Jessica Hutcheson (right), a master's candidate at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, came to use the resources of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture recently. A native of Nantucket, MA, she decided to investigate the oyster industry on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 1850-1914. A theme in her research for her thesis is developing the social life of the communities where the watermen resided. While at the Nabb Research Center she used materials from the numerous collections that we have as well as monographs on the subject.

She anticipates receiving her master's degree in May 2001, and she is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Burt Thornton and Salisbury State University archaeology instructor Ed Otter represented the Nabb Research Center at the Pocomoke River Appreciation Day Festival. The Thorntons (right) are pictured in colonial costume making Maryland beaten biscuits. Otter (above) is shown displaying Center archaeological artifacts, Worcester County ephemera and our 2001 calendars.

Collen McCracken (left) of Spokane, WA, and her sister, Mary Ann St. Louis, of Seattle, WA, visited the Nabb Research Center in October to research their Heath and Wilson ancestry.



Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller spoke to a group (above) during the opening session of the recently held Salisbury State University millennium conference, "Chesapeake Bay in the 21st Century." The five-day conference featured speakers from across the country and showcased the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in the mid-Atlantic region.

The Next Generation

Robert Holmlund, a past winner of the Delmarva History Prize, made possible by an endowment to the Nabb Research Center from the W.F. Donner Foundation in honor of Wilcomb E. Washburn, is now a history teacher for the upper classes at Salisbury School. Holmlund recently brought one of his Salisbury School classes to the Nabb Research Center to learn about the life of the early Delmarva settlers through the use of primary records. Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller gave each student the name of an early settler to research using primary resources. The students were knowledgeable and enthusiastic. One student wanted to learn who patented the land on which Salisbury School stands today. The seeds were planted for the next generation of researchers using the resources found at the Nabb Research Center.

Spotlight on Collections

The Stuff of Colonial Inventories

by Pat Taylor

The staff and volunteers of the Nabb Research Center have organized a display, "The Stuff of Colonial Inventories," for spring 2001. This display of household and plantation items listed on the inventories of the builders of three colonial dwellings in Old Somerset will suggest a picture of colonial life on the Eastern Shore. Because the structures survived into the 20th century, the display will show photographs of the dwellings where some of the "stuff" of colonial inventories were "housed."

The Powell-Benston house in Somerset County was built in the first quarter of the 18th century by William Powell, who died in 1714. The inventory reflects the different activities that took place in the single first floor room of the house.

Pemberton Hall, in Wicomico County, was built in 1741 by Isaac Handy. His inventory reflects the life and activities of a plantation with 17 slaves. The display includes a copy of *The Countrey Justice* by Michael Dalton, written in 1622, the only book in the inventory mentioned by name except the Bible.

Genesar, standing on the south end of Sinepuxent Neck in Worcester County, was built about 1730 for Major John Purnell. Purnell's 1755 inventory reflects the life of a large mid-18th century plantation with 37 slaves at the house and other tenant farms. Purnell was one of the wealthiest planters in Old Somerset County during the colonial period.

Colonial inventories are one of the many primary sources at the Nabb Research Center that students of United States History and Proseminar classes use. The Wicomico Historical Society, in collaboration with the Nabb Research Center, has loaned many of the items listed on the inventories from its collection. Through the generosity of Robert S. Withey, president of the Wicomico Historical Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the Nabb Research Center, these artifacts and interpretations of other items will help students and visitors learn more about colonial life.

Powell-Benston house in Somerset County, photographed c.1964, from *Somerset an Architectural History* by Paul Baker Touart.

The Nabb Research Center Celebrates African-American History Month

The Pitts Creek Burial Ground Project

by John Dennis

The genealogies and burial grounds of the African-American community of the Eastern Shore are a challenging field of research that urgently deserves a greater commitment of research and conservation resources. Significant threads of oral history–some of them undoubtedly relevant to identifying and documenting unmarked burial sites–are lost forever with each passing year. At the same time, unmarked burial sites, some of which have lain undisturbed for many decades at the margins of agricultural areas and roadways, are now at ever greater risk of destruction as development brings new changes to our rural and urban landscapes.

The Pitts Creek Burial Ground Project (PCBGP) is a small but interesting project in the formulation phase that has potential to tie into some of the ongoing historical research and conservation efforts on the Eastern Shore. Pitts Creek is a small tributary flowing into the east bank of the Pocomoke River close to the boundary between Accomac County, VA, and Worcester County, MD. Early last year, Dale Hall, a resident of Cedar Hall, MD, pointed out to researchers the location of a site close to Pitts Creek that his grandfather had told him had been used as a burial ground by the slave community at Beverly, a former plantation of approximately 1,000 acres on the eastern bank of the Pocomoke River. The site is located roughly a mile southeast of the present-day Beverly mansion, which has a majestic location on a sweeping curve of the Pocomoke River.

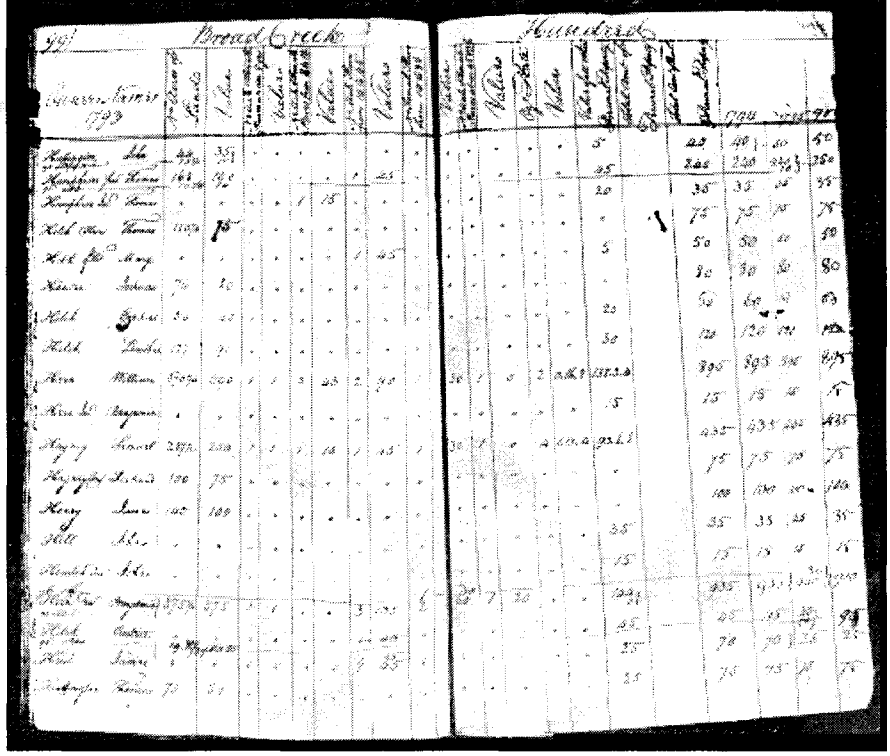
In the initial research and authentication phase, the project will recruit an archeologist who will review historical documents and perform evaluative testing through excavation of an area of the burial site, recruit an historian who will review historical records including maps and chain-of-title on property and produce oral histories of individuals, and recruit a videographer who will produce a documentary about the project.

In consultation with the landowner, the project will then seek to have the burial site placed in the land records of Worcester County and in the records of the Office of Archeology of the Maryland Historical Trust, and create and place an inscribed marker on the burial ground.

Thirdly will be the development of a public program which may take the form of lectures, radio programs and a videotaped presentation and which will seek to place information about the site in publications of the Worcester County Tourism Office and in other promotional materials on African-American historical sites. It may also be desirable to nominate the burial site for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* and to seek to have it designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Research resources that could possibly become involved in the project include genealogies of African-American families in the area, the use of DeedMapper software to document chain-of-title of land in the area and federal census data for the period 1790-1860. The census data together with the chain of title data could enable the distribution of slave-owning, non-slave owning and free black households in Worcester County to be mapped over this period.

Other possible research projects could include: the demography of slave-owning, non-slave-owning and free black households for U.S. census records for Worcester County could be analyzed for the period 1790-1860 to map and analyze the demography of slavery during this period, and emigration of



Broad Creek Hundred of Somerset County, MD

Broad Creek vs. Barren Creek

by Becky Miller

Just when you think you know where the locations of all the districts are on Delmarva, an anomaly such as the discovery of Broad Creek Hundred in Somerset County, MD, pops up. Member Lee Nelson of Georgia discovered a listing of Broad Creek Hundred in the *Somerset County Commissioner of the Tax Records 1793-1798* at the Maryland State Archives. When told about this discovery, we were very interested. It is commonly thought Broad Creek Hundred is in Sussex County, DE, and never has such a hundred designation been listed in old Somerset County. Wrong! Fortunately Lee had taken down the accession number, so we ordered this record to be filmed and added to the Nabb Research Center's growing microfilm collection, realizing that this interesting record will surely be of benefit to our patrons. Maryland researchers will know the Barren Creek Hundred area as today being the Mardela Springs vicinity near the Maryland and Delaware state lines through which the modern Route 50 runs.

The list is compiled in the standard "general alpha" of the other, more familiar tax lists for this period. Information listed is owners' names in 1793, number of acres and value; male and female slaves under age 8 and value; male and female slaves from 8 to 14 and value; male slaves 14 to 45 and value; female slaves 14 to 36 and value; male and female slaves above 45 and 36 and value; ounces of plate and value; value of all other personal property; and total amount of real and personal property. Lastly, column headings of 1794, 1795 and 1798 list total value amounts.

Aside from locating over 200 persons one might expect to find in Sussex County, the historical information is invaluable. Notice the valuations of slaves are separated by gender in the most physically productive years. On the sample page reproduced here, notice only the large landowners were also slave holders: William Hern with 670 3/4 acres and eight slaves, Samuel Hayney with 287 3/4 acres and five slaves and Benjamin Hern Sr. with 575 3/4 acres and seven slaves. Curtice Hitch was assessed for one-third of a mill. By using another film, the 1798 federal direct tax for Somerset County, which also contains Broad Creek Hundred, we can ascertain the location of these individuals. Curtis Hitch had a house constructed of round poles 16 x 14 near George Waller's mill four miles from Salisbury, with another piece of property on which was James Humphris' dwelling which was two miles from Spring Hill Chapel. Benjamin Hern's acreage was between Spring Hill and Salisbury, with two houses 20 x 16, one story out of repair, numerous outbuildings, including a 14 x 12 blacksmith shop and two other tenants, Spencer Hern and John Johnson, living on his property. There was no Samuel Hayney on the 1798 list, but Dr. Martin Luther Hayney owned property in Broad Creek Hundred, in the forest six miles from Salisbury, a dwelling house framed one story 18 x 20 but occupied by Richard Waller.

While perusing the film, another startling discovery appeared in the form of a document titled "Improvements In Princess Ann Hundred." This list was filmed among the pages of Wicomico Hundred. No one would think to look in Wicomico Hundred for anything about Princess Anne, particularly in the middle of the wrong hundred. The information is as follows:

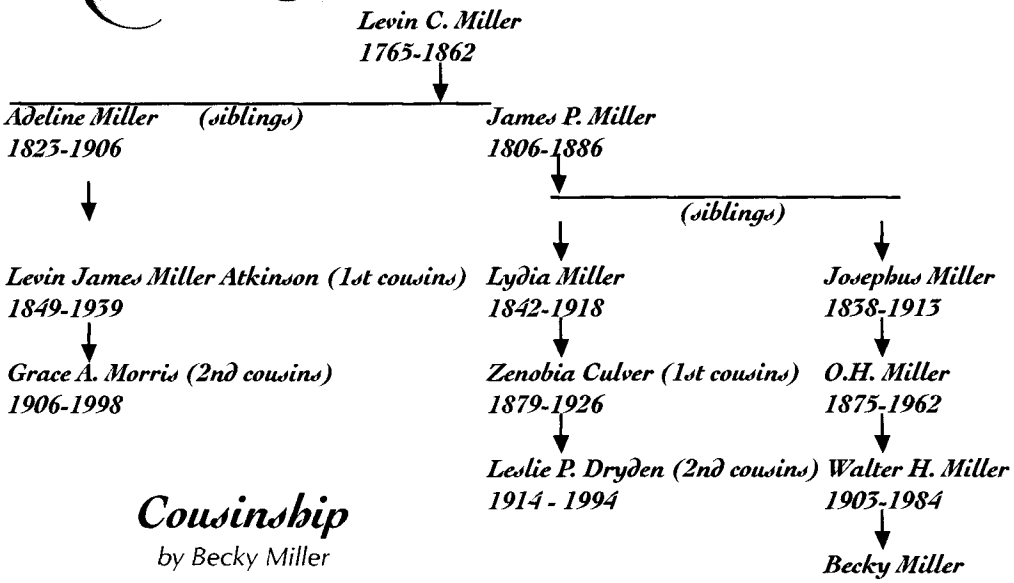
Denwood John, Hewston house on lott No. 10
Digner Frederick Improvements to very considerable on water lot joining to the town
Manning Francis, Dwelling house and shop on lot No. 14
McClemmey Samuel, very considerable Improvements on lots No. 13 & 14 well known to Comissioners [sic]
Milleway Robert, new dwelling house, with a trap door in closet to conseal [sic] goods under the floor also shop
Woolford John, new dwelling house kitchen in front & shop on lot No. 3
Waggaman George new store house on lot No. 14

This record is but one of many of the unusual found at the Nabb Research Center. We make it our business to locate, acquire and disseminate information about such records as a service to our researchers. As we all know, the key to ferreting out historical information on Delmarva is location, location, location!

freed black households from Worcester County to Liberia during the period 1820-1880 and their subsequent involvement in socio-political development of Liberia could be researched.

It is likely that the project will be affiliated with the Nabb Research Center and the Department of History at Salisbury State University. Resource persons consulted to date include Dr. Clara Small, professor of history at Salisbury State; Deborah Salahu-Din of Janna Research in Baltimore; Rebecca Miller, director of the Nabb Research Center; Edward Otter, consulting archaeologist; James Trader, a specialist in the conservation of burial sites; and J. Court Stevenson, a biologist at the Horn Point Laboratory who is researching land ownership patterns in Calvert County, MD. Individuals who know of information that may be relevant to the project are encouraged to contact the project director or Rebecca Miller at the Nabb Research Center.

John V. Dennis Jr., Ph.D., is a consulting sociologist at Sustainable Development Associates in Ithaca, NY. Dennis is a member of the Nabb Research Center with an interest in Beverly plantation, ancestral home of the Dennis family.



Cousinship

by Becky Miller

One of the unique factors concerning the Delmarva Peninsula is the aspect of cousinship that permeates the area, past and present. This sets us apart from most areas, particularly since first cousin marriages were not outlawed in Maryland until 1912. Matings between cousins are called consanguineal, meaning that the members of the pair have one or more common ancestors. Whether we acknowledge it or not, each of us probably has some consanguineous marriage in our background. I am a fourth cousin once removed to my husband, meaning that we share a common ancestor back four generations in my instance and five generations in his. Since I was born to parents of age to be my grandparents, I am usually "removed" by cousinship to anyone in my generation. The word "cousin" has numerous connotations, some of which are more precise than others. We often use the word in a general way to refer to any collaterally related person more distant than siblings who share a common ancestor. This is generally the manner in which 17th century persons denote ancillary relations.

When prosopographers want to be specific, we use the term "cousin" in an exact way: cousins (first cousins) are the children of siblings. That is to say, the children of aunts and uncles of an individual are first cousins to each other. On the Shore, since many persons are related by some degree of cousinship, the term "own cousin" came into parlance, denoting a first cousin by blood relationship, as opposed to a lesser cousin relationship. Second cousins are the children of first cousins, and third cousins are the children of second cousins, etc. To illustrate, my second cousins are the children of my parents' first cousins, and my third cousins are the grandchildren of my grandparents' first cousins. The degree of cousinship follows generational lines, and kinship relations are defined by the common ancestor.

Confusion always arises when generational lines are crossed to express relationships among cousins in an adjacent generation or across several generations. This is the concept of "removal," generally expressed as cousin "once removed" or "twice removed" according to how many generations separate the related individuals. Thus, one is a first cousin once removed (1C1R) to his or her parents' first cousins, or to the children of his or her first cousins.

The degree of cousinship to an individual does not change, only the generational removal. To illustrate, we will use three individuals with whom by name many readers are familiar. For instance, Research Center benefactor, the late Grace Atkinson Morris, was my second cousin, twice removed. She was a second cousin to my grandfather, but two generations "removed" in age from me. The late Leslie P. Dryden, creator of the Nabb Research Center's largest genealogical collection, was my second cousin, once (2C1R) removed, i.e., his mother and my grandfather were first cousins who both were second cousins to Mrs. Morris, thus all three of us claim kinship via our closest shared forebear (there are many), Levin C. Miller, to whom Mrs. Morris was a great-grandchild, Mr. Dryden was a great-great-grandchild and I am a great-great-great-grandchild. Mrs. Morris, Mr. Dryden's mother, my grandfather and my father were all born in Perryhawkin within a quarter mile of each other on property descended to their parents down from their mutual ancestor. Mrs. Morris' father moved to Princess Anne, as did my grandfather. Mr. Dryden's parents moved to the Western Shore and my father to New York. Mrs. Morris' and Mr. Dryden's collections are both housed at the Nabb Research Center where Becky Miller is the director, thus sharing another relationship for posterity.

Don't Like the Name of Your Town? Blame the Postal Service

by T. Aaron Horner

Did you know that the word "Wenona" is a Sioux word meaning "first female child born"? This was the name the postal service gave the lower half of Deal Island. Geographically speaking, the Sioux chased buffalo herds over the Great Plains of the Dakotas, not the "Coastal Plains" of Delmarva. Have you ever wondered how your town got its name? Many towns on the Shore are named after prominent persons; Crisfield was named after John W. Crisfield; Princess Anne after the daughter, Anne, of King George II. Other towns are named after historic homes or towns, such as Mt. Vernon and Berlin.

However, several towns have changed their name since their founding. Though some have come at the expense of religion, like Devil's Island to Deal Island and Damned Quarter to Dames Quarter, or politics, like Edentown, originally named in honor of Governor Eden, to Denton, others have been changed due to the advice of the postal service. When Captain James Whitelock petitioned the postal service for an office in Rock Creek, he was turned down. He submitted another name, Chance, fearing that the residents would not get their own post office. Ironically, an office was granted to them with that name. The residents of St. Peter's were turned down because there was another town by that name in the state. They decided to

Delmarva Westward

by Dan R. Moore

The Moore family, which was scattered over Somerset, Dorchester and Worcester counties in Maryland and Sussex County in Delaware, started a movement to the south and west. Delmarva became overpopulated after the Revolutionary War and into the early 1800s. There were three sons in the second generation, 16 sons in the third generation and 47 known sons in the fourth generation; an exponential increase. The younger sons had difficulty obtaining land. There simply was not enough to go around since the eldest son inherited most of the property. Bad farming practices may have contributed to the emigration. The Moores were not alone in this movement. Since they were related to many of the Delmarva families, members of these families also went with the Moores, but not necessarily at the same time.

George Lane Moore and family and Ebenezer Moore of Somerset County went to Granville County, NC, in c.1771. In March of 1777, Risdon Moore Sr. of Dorchester County and his family moved to Guilford County, NC. Two of George Lane Moore's sons moved to Henry County, TN. Smith Moore, son of Risdon Moore Sr., remained in Guilford County, NC; however, his son William Dent Moore moved to Hancock County, GA, and then to St. Clair County, IL, in 1812. In c.1812, another son, Risdon Dent Moore, went to Sumner County, TN. The widow of Thomas Moore, another son of Risdon Sr., migrated to Randolph County, IN, and then to Hendricks County, IN. John Moore, another son of Risdon Moore, went to Taylorsville, Johnson County, in eastern Tennessee. Risdon Moore Jr. and his family went to Hancock County, GA; and in spring 1817, he, his wife and all children but one, moved to St. Clair County, IL, where he became an Illinois senator in 1828.

There was a large emigration to central Georgia. In c.1790, Joshua Moore II and family (his wife was the granddaughter of William Taylor and Sarah Cooper); Charles Moore, his wife (Mary Cooper) and sons, Jonathan and Risdon; Zebulon Wright; James Cooper; Elijah Cooper; Thomas Cooper Sr.; and Thomas Cooper Jr., lived on Shoulderbone Creek, which was half in Greene County and half in Hancock County. Curtis Moore did not live on Shoulderbone Creek but was in Greene County. Curtis and his family went to St. Clair County, IL, in 1811. In 1817, Risdon Moore, son of Charles, went to St. Clair County, IL, with all of his family, except one son, 17 slaves, and W. H. Dashiell and his wife. Risdon was a representative of Hancock County in the Georgia Legislature and served in the Illinois Territorial Legislature and Illinois State Legislature. His son, William, was involved in a wrestling match with Abraham Lincoln during the Black Hawk War. His grandson, Risdon Alexander Moore, went to California as a member of the Fremont Expedition in 1845. Afterward, he went to Washington, in order to testify in the court-martial of Fremont. He returned to Illinois after a few years. Risdon Moore and his relatives were actively involved in administration and teaching at McKendree College.

Also in Hancock County, GA, were Ephraim Moore, Elijah Moore and the children of Newbold Moore. Also there were Gordys, Parkers, Dykes, Humphries, Hearnes, Dashiells and others from Delmarva. Elijah Moore moved from Hancock County to Baldwin County to Coweta County. Of Newbold Moore's sons, Thomas B. and Clement went to Butts County, GA; Whittington Moore along with Elijah Freeny lived in Baldwin County, GA, along with Littleton Beauchamp and family.

Jacob Moore migrated to Montgomery County, AL, where he acquired a large plantation over his lifetime.

Spencer Moore, son of Joshua Moore II, went to Monroe County, GA, between 1816 and 1820. From there, he and his family relocated to Macon County (now Lee County), AL, in winter 1837. Spencer acquired a vast amount of land and was a recognized founder of Auburn University. Joshua Moore III (brother of Spencer Moore) and his family moved to Putnam County, just across the Oconee River from his father Joshua II, and then back to Greene County about 1814. In c.1821, he and his family moved to Tuscaloosa County, AL; to Franklin County, AL, in 1821; Hardeman County, TN, in 1825, and to Red River County, Republic of Texas, in 1836, where he obtained a land grant signed by Anson Jones, president of the Republic of Texas. Samuel Moore, another brother went to Monroe County, GA, with Spencer Moore.

Joseph W. Moore moved to Mississippi County, MO, where he died in 1847. Joseph's cousin, Thomas Levin Moore, lived in Jefferson County, KY; thence, to Washington County, IL, by 1819 and to Clinton County, IL, by 1838.

In c.1838, John Wesley Moore and his brothers, Perry Barton and Isaac Whatcoat, left the Little Creek Hundred in Sussex County and arrived in Marion and Shelby counties in Missouri after a brief stop in Adams County, IL. There was another Perry B. Moore, born in Delaware, who moved to Marion County, MO.

Two sons of John Wesley Moore, John Thompson and Perry James Moore, went to Meagher County, MT, after the Civil War and had some adventures throughout the West and California. They became wealthy sheep ranchers in Montana. Also, about the same time, or a little earlier, another Moore family relative, James Madison Rider, moved to Bollinger County, MO.

These movements from Delmarva are just some of the known migrations. Essentially, there were two emigrations, one large one in c.1790 to Central Georgia and a smaller one in c.1838 to Missouri. There were some individual movements from Delmarva before, during and after the two larger ones.

Nabb Research Center member, Dan Moore, is the author of *The Descendants of John Moore of Somerset County, Maryland.* Moore resides in Cleburne, TX, and can be reached at mooredr.tx.cleb@worldnet.att.net.

name their community after a bird that was frequently found in the area, so they selected Oriole. One town actually got half of what it wanted in a name. When residents in the lower part of St. Peter's Neck wanted a post office, a prominent citizen, I. Frank Beauchamp, proposed his own name, Beauchamp. Again, the postal service refused the request, saying that the name was too long. Finally, they compromised by dropping the first part of the name and sticking with Champ.

There are several books available that describe the origins of Delmarva's town names. And now with the price of a stamp up another penny, it only adds fuel to the fire. So if there is a town name that you may have trouble figuring out or you simply do not like the name of yours, it is a good "Chance" you can blame the postal service.

Student Research

Influential Apron Strings
The Wills of Colonial Women, 1740-1820

by Katherine E. Harte

In examining colonial history, the focus has been primarily upon the men, politics and warfare of the time rather than upon the home front and the ladies who evolved on a personal level as they provided support for their men. It is my hypothesis that by researching the wills of colonial women in Somerset County, MD, from 1740 to 1820, it is possible to surmise the objects upon which value was placed and the relationships of the women with those upon whom inheritances were bestowed. Seemingly, the value of specific items was affected by the passage of time and with the occurring events that took place within each of the time periods. Clearly, the intent of these females was to not only provide assistance in the current lives of loved ones and friends, but to continue to influence the future of these recipients long after the bestowal of gifts as well. Furthermore, I am interested in showing the correlation and/or development of these concepts during three time periods—just prior to, during and after the American Revolutionary War.

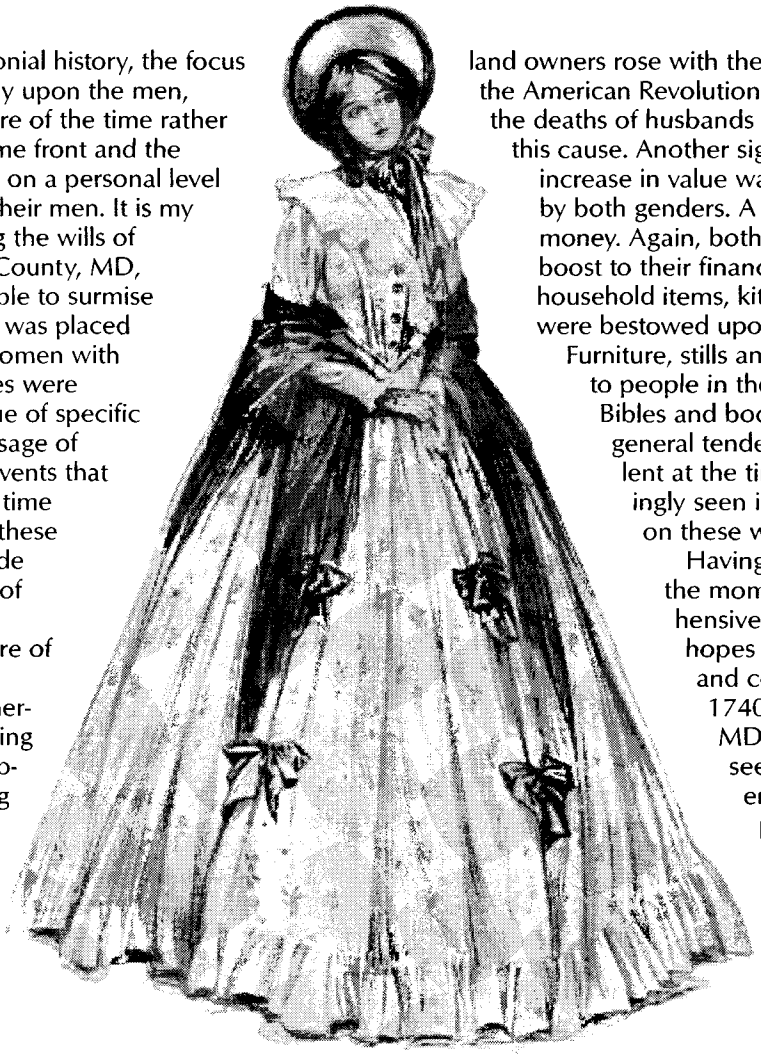


Illustration of early 19th century gown from the Nabb Research Center Collection.

One trend throughout the three periods seems to be that immovable property was bestowed upon men while moveable property was a gift left to both genders. It appears that the roles played by the different genders were a factor in determining what type of gift was bestowed upon the inheritors. Men, being expected to support and provide for the family, were given permanent, substantial gifts. In conjunction with this objective, males were also given everyday, practical items. Females, who were encouraged to support their male relatives and provide a caring, warm atmosphere for their families and friends, received those objects that would aid them in accomplishing these objectives.

Among those items upon which tremendous value was placed was, naturally, land that was usually given to males. While it is surprising that women even owned land, an examination of these wills shows that the number of female land owners rose with the growing climatic events of the American Revolutionary War and, perhaps, with the deaths of husbands and soldiers who fought for this cause. Another significant gift that appeared to increase in value was slaves, which were received by both genders. A third important gift was money. Again, both genders would profit from a boost to their financial security. Many common household items, kitchen objects and livestock were bestowed upon both men and women.

Furniture, stills and silver were other goods left to people in these wills. The limited gifts of Bibles and books would seem to reflect the general tendency toward illiteracy prevalent at the time and can be correspondingly seen in the lack of actual signatures on these wills.

Having completed my research, for the moment, I now plan to comprehensively examine my data in the hopes of determining comparisons and contrasts during the years from 1740 to 1820 in Somerset County, MD. I can speculate that women seemed to possess more property and goods as these years progressed. It also appears that the American Revolutionary War had a dramatic effect upon a woman's possessions, but further examination will be needed to determine how the war may or may not have affected the disposal of these belongings upon the death of the women. Also, I would like to determine the ratio of male/female and friend/family inheritors. In addition, I would like to delve into why specific goods seemed to be given to certain people. Was it due to a certain mindset or custom or due to practical reasons?

Research of these time periods will, in my opinion, contribute to a better understanding of the values of these Somerset County ladies, but simultaneously, more questions continue to be raised as I have progressed into my research.

Katherine Harte received her M.A. in history from Salisbury State University in 1998. She is currently continuing her research in women's history and will begin her doctoral studies this fall.

Disappearing Delmarva

This article is the first work on a new feature for *Shoreline*, "Disappearing Delmarva." The feature will spotlight places and customs on the Eastern Shore that have been lost over time.

Remnants of Bethel (northeast view)

Bethel, Maryland?

by T. Aaron Horner

Between the communities of Dames Quarter and St. Stephens lies an open stretch of marsh with various creeks and their tributaries. One will also discover small clusters of trees along both sides of Deal Island Road near the intersection with the refuge road. For most of my life, the sight of these trees every time I travel the highway has caught my attention. I have often wondered why these trees exist out here in the middle of the marsh. As a young boy, I had been told that some of my "roots" came from this area. Later, I learned that a small hamlet once stood here; a town, like many across the Shore, that have been lost through the passage of time.

To locals, and myself, this former community has been known as Pigeon House, a name taken from the creek that flows above it northward into the Monie Bay. This town also went by the name of Bethel, meaning "House of God," which was the name of the Methodist church that once stood there. The area was first patented in 1683 by Augustine Stanford and Robert Polk as a 100-acre tract called Forlorn Hope. Other tracts soon followed, Polks Folly and Polks Lott (1687), The Adventure (1688), and Ballyhack and Clonmell (1700). By 1750, much of the area had been sold to two brothers, John and William Shores. By the end of the 18th century, George Austin possessed much of the land.

By the second half of the 19th century, Bethel reached its greatest size, owned by the Bozmans, headed by brothers John, Robert and Thomas, the largest family in the area. Though not as large in size compared to neighboring communities, it had the features of a typical small town. Looking at the *1877 Atlas of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, there were over a dozen homes, a church and a school. There was also a grocery store along Pigeon House Creek owned by John Bozman. In addition to the Bozmans, the Dashiell, Davis, Emory, Jones, Shores and Wallis families inhabited the area. Though there were no large farms here, the town served as a grazing pasture for cattle. With the little hamlet situated on the main highway between Deal Island and Princess Anne, plus its location on Pigeon House Creek, Bethel was able to maintain its connection with the everyday world. By 1900, the rise in sea level resulted in the encroachment of the marshes upon the town. Soon the soil was no longer favorable for farming and grazing. As residents slowly headed out with moveable property, so did their houses as they were pulled across the marsh to nearby communities. The little church that served its patrons was moved to Oriole and served as that community's church hall.

Today, all that remains of Pigeon House are the graves of its past tenants. A lot has changed over time. The old church burned down years ago. Boats are no longer built along the rivers and creeks. Other nearby towns have either disappeared with time, like Geanguakin, or are on their way out, like St. Stephens. What remains of the old Deal Island Road now serves as a refuge road for the Deal Island Wildlife Management Area and a modern highway cuts through the old hamlet. Year after year, trees become victims to the encroaching marsh. Just this past year, one of the few remaining homes from Pigeon House was torn down in Dames Quarter.

Bozman graves (southeast view)

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